Financial Business

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND I—EXCISE DEPARTMENT—Rs. 2,500.

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 2,500 under Demand I—Excise Department for the purchase of country-cots for the Excise subordinates working in the malarial tracts of Devicolam and Kottayam.

There has been a very severe type of Malaria prevailing in some of these districts. Certain relief measures by way of supply of mosquito nets and quinine pills have been undertaken to relieve the sufferings of the subordinates of the Excise Department, who have to stay there. Spraying operations have also been done to prevent mosquito breeding. These subordinates are now constrained to lie on the floor. They have to be provided with country cots and for this purpose a sum of Rs. 2,500 is required. I request the House to vote this grant.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: I oppose the motion for this supplementary grant. I do this with the purpose of bringing to the notice of Government certain irregularities of the Excise Subordinates that have prejudicially affected the rights of the general public.

PRESIDENT: It is a well understood fact in the case of supplementary grants that no general discussion on the policy of the Department can be allowed. You can, of course, speak on any acts of the subordinates in the malarial tracts which you deem necessary to be brought to the notice of this House.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: My point is that incidentally I can state that no supplementary grant need be given to these subordinates.

PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

The question that a sum of Rs. 2,500 under Demand Excise Department be granted was put and carried.

The demand was passsed and the grant was made.

DEMAND II—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE—Rs. 4,300.

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 4,300 under Demand II—Electricity and Telephone on account of travelling allowance and contingent expenditure of the Electrical Engineer on special duty and his staff.

The Chief Electrical Engineer on special duty was appointed for a short period of 3 months and it was thought that he would be able to finish his duties within that period and so no special provision was made in the budget for 1121 for his travelling allowance and the contingent expenses of his office. When the three months expired, which was in October last, it was found that all the work that he had to do had not been completed. The period had to be extended by six months and since there was no special allotment for his travelling allowance and contingencies of his office this amount of Rs. 4,300 has been provided. I request that the grant may be made.

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